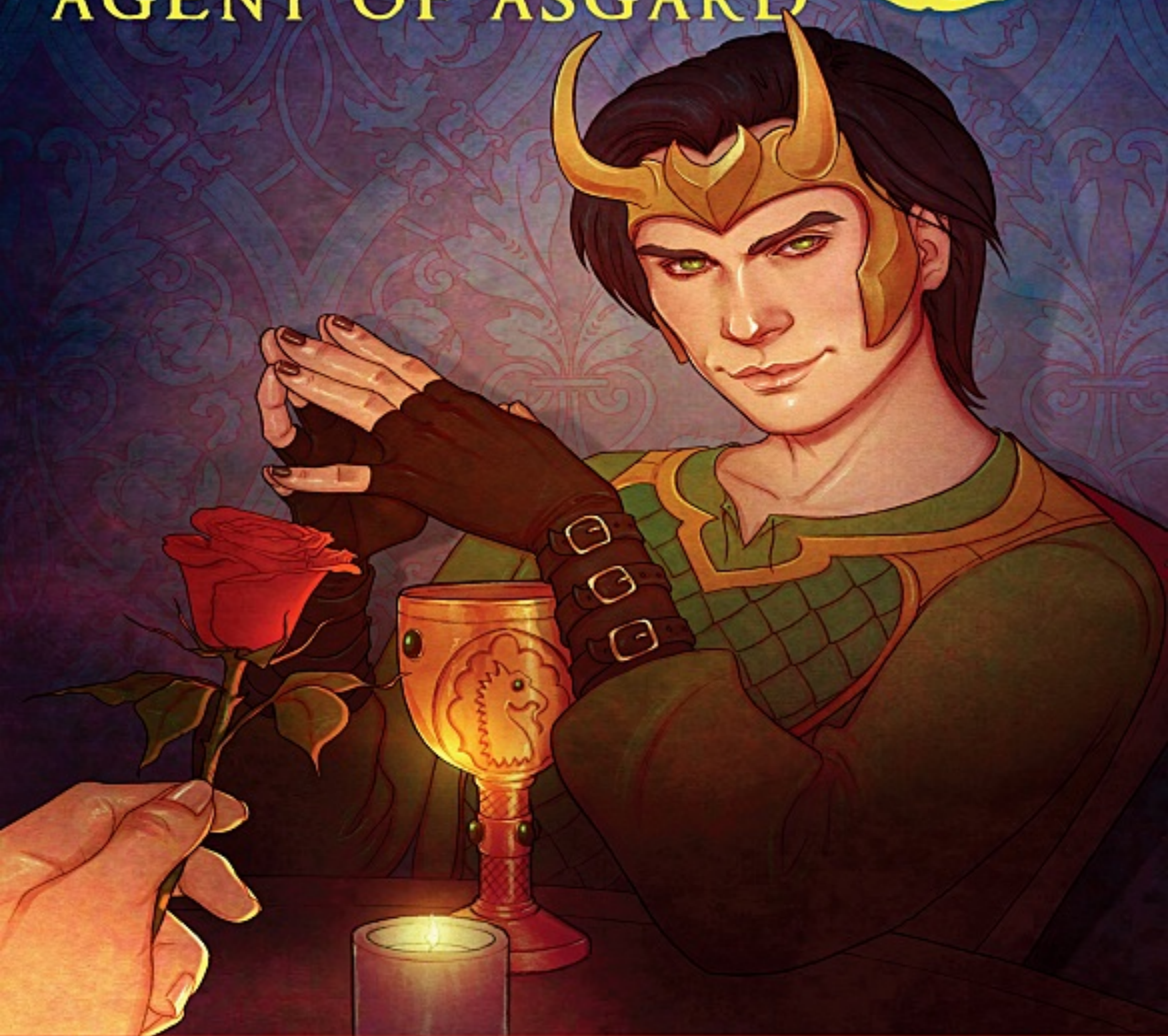


LOKI

AGENT OF ASGARD



THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

LOKI WAS THE GOD OF EVIL. BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE. SO HE
DIED AND BEGAN AGAIN.

TO THE SURPRISE OF ALL, THE NEW KID LOKI WAS A GOOD AND
KIND AND HELPFUL TRICKSTER, BELOVED BY HIS BROTHER THOR
AND GRUDGINGLY SEMI-TRUSTED BY ALL, OR MOST, ASGARDIANS.
SO NATURALLY THE GHOST OF HIS OLD SELF - OR PERHAPS MERELY
AN ECHO OF IT - ANNIHILATED THE KID VERSION FOREVER, STOLE
HIS BODY AND WORE IT WITH NONE THE WISER.

(TO THIS DAY, NO ASGARDIAN KNOWS.)

IT WAS A BLANK SLATE. A CONTINUE. A WAY FOR LOKI TO HAVE HIS
FRESH START AND EAT IT TOO, TO CHANGE WITHOUT DYING. BUT
THE TERROR OF ONE DAY SLIPPING BACK INTO WHAT HE'D ONCE
BEEN, OF HIS CHANGES REVERSING - OF HAVING THE MURDER OF
HIS OWN SELF BE FOR NOTHING - LED HIM TO STRIKE A BARGAIN
WITH ASGARDIA'S RULING TRIUMVIRATE, THE ALL-MOTHER.

NEW LEGENDS FOR OLD. SECRET MISSIONS FOR THE THRONE OF
ASGARD PERFORMED IN EXCHANGE FOR PAST CRIMES BEING
WIPED FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS, SO THEIR GRAVITY COULD NO
LONGER PULL HIM BACK TOWARDS HIS OLD SELF.

MISSIONS LIKE RESCUING THOR FROM AN EVIL, CORRUPTING
FORCE THAT HAD INVADED HIS BLOOD AND MIND. A FORCE LOKI
TRAPPED IN A RUNIC JAR AND DELIVERED TO THE ALL-MOTHER.
A FORCE THAT - WHEN THE ALL-MOTHER RECOGNIZED IT AND
RELEASED IT, OUT OF LOKI'S SIGHT AND HEARING - LOOKED FOR
ALL THE WORLD LIKE...

LOKI.

THE OLD, DEAD LOKI. SEEKING BARGAINS AND SPEAKING OF THE
YET-TO-COME.

THIS IS THE STORY...OF THE AGENT OF ASGARD.





ARE WE?



Loki and Lorelei: Sitting in a Tree...

**Al
Ewing**
Writer

**Lee
Garbett**
Artist

**Nolan
Woodard**
Color Artist

**VC's Clayton
Cowles**
Letterer

Jenny Frison
Cover Artist

Jon Moisan
Asst. Editor

Wil Moss & Lauren Sankovitch
Editors

Rxel Alonso
Editor in Chief

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley
Publisher

Alan Fine
Exec. Producer



WELL, ONE OF US DEFINITELY IS.

WHY THE GETUP? IS THERE A CON GOING ON SOMEWHERE?

THERE'S ALWAYS A CON GOING ON SOMEWHERE.

BUT TO ANSWER YOUR FIRST QUESTION...



...I'M ACTUALLY LOKI, NORSE GOD OF MISCHIEF, HERE ON A TOP-SECRET SPY MISSION FROM THE ALL-MOTHER-- THE RULING TRIUMVIRATE OF ASGARDIA--

--IN RETURN FOR HAVING ONE OF MY MANY CRIMES STRICKEN FROM ALL GODLY RECORDS.

I KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE MOST RIDICULOUS LIE...



...BUT IT'S NOT, IS IT?

...NO.

WHAT... WHAT'S YOUR, UH, YOUR MISSION?

A CERTAIN GODDESS NAMED LORELEI.



I... I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS...



OF COURSE YOU DON'T.



THIS IS LORELEI.

YOUNGER SIBLING OF:
AMORA, THE ENCHANTRESS.
(THEY DON'T GET ALONG.)

STATUS: ALIVE.
USUALLY.

MISSING RAGNARÖK AND
SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTIONS.
ABLE TO EVADE HEIMDALL'S
GAZE AS A RESULT.
(SEE ALSO: SIGURD.)

OCCASIONAL
ENEMY OF:
ASGARD, THE
DEFENDERS,
PLUTO.

EX-PARAMOUR OF:
THOR, VIA SORCERY.

(ALSO LOKI.
HER SISTER STILL
THINKS THAT WAS
VIA SORCERY.)

MISSION: RETURN
LORELEI TO--

WAIT
WAIT WAIT.
TIME OUT,
PLEASE.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING IN
THE PUNCH?



THREE
WEEKS
PRIOR:

MANIFESTING,
LOKI. I'D HAVE
THOUGHT THAT
WAS OBVIOUS.

WE HAVE
ANOTHER
MISSION
FOR YOU.



IT'S TIME
ALL THOSE
ASGARDIANS
CHOOSING TO WANDER
MIDGARD WERE
BROUGHT HOME
TO THEIR--



MOTHER--MY
NEW NEIGHBORS
WILL BE HERE ANY
MINUTE. WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED TO
SAY TO
THEM?

"PLEASE!
COME IN! TRY
A REFRESHING
GLASS OF MY
FOSTER-
MOTHER'S
HEAD!"



NEW
NEIGHBORS?
OH, DEAR.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
BEEN UP TO,
LOKI?

WELL...I
MAY--MAY--HAVE
HAD TO MAGICALLY
SHIFT THE APARTMENT
TO ANOTHER BUILDING
BECAUSE EVERYONE
THOUGHT I WAS
HARRY STYLES.

SOMETIMES I
THINK MORTALS
ARE TOO
GULLIBLE...



LOOK, AT
LEAST TRY TO
STAY OVER THE
BOWL--



AREN'T YOU
CURIOUS AS TO
WHERE LORELEI
MIGHT BE NOW, LOKI?

I SEEM
TO REMEMBER
YOU TWO WERE ONCE
SOMEWHAT CLOSE...



WELL...
YES, WE
WERE.

SOMEWHAT.



AND I ADMIT THE GHOSTS OF CERTAIN PLEASANT MEMORIES DO LINGER-- INAPPROPRIATE AS THEY ARE FOR AN INNOCENT SUCH AS MYSELF...

Hmm.

PERHAPS YOU ARE A NEWER ITERATION OF THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, LOKI...

A BRIEF REMINDER:
LOKI ANNIHILATED THE
NEWER ITERATION OF
HIMSELF AND STOLE
HIS BODY.

I AM THE
CRIME THAT
WILL NOT BE
FORGIVEN.

...BUT
YOU REMAIN
LOKI.

AND THUS, THE
ONLY ASGARDIAN
CAPABLE OF BRINGING
LORELEI HOME WHERE
SHE TRULY BELONGS.

DO
SO.

WE
PROMISE
YOUR REWARD
WILL BE
GREAT.

GOODIE.

MAYBE I'LL
GET A NEW
CARPET.

DING
DONG



SO WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT?

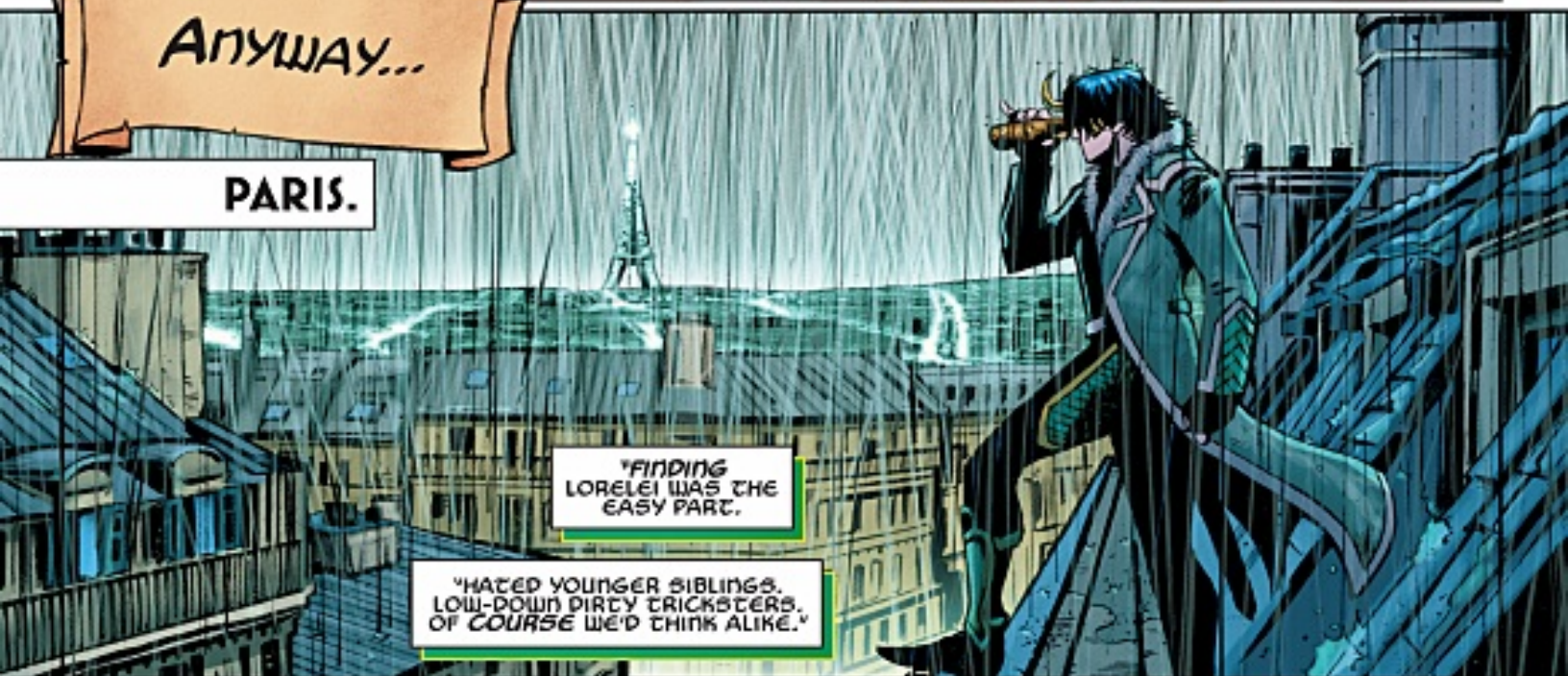
THE RUG
WAS RUINED,
AND SO WAS THE
PARTY. STILL,
NEVER MIND.

I'LL GET
SOME NEW NEW
NEIGHBORS NEXT
MONTH. START
OVER.

I'M
ALL ABOUT
STARTING
OVER.

ANYWAY...

PARIS.



"FINDING
LORELEI WAS THE
EASY PART.

"HATED YOUNGER SIBLINGS.
LOW-DOWN DIRTY TRICKSTERS.
OF COURSE WE'D THINK ALIKE."



<IN THE
LOUVRE?
A FAKE,
ALAS.*>

<THEN
YOU MAY
NAME YOUR
PRICE!>

<THE REAL
THING IS IN *my*
POSSESSION...>

*LIP-READ FROM
THE FRENCH.



HMM.

"AND I HAD
INFORMATION
SOURCES THE
REST OF ASGARD
WOULDN'T THINK
TO USE..."



"...SUCH AS NEWSPAPERS,
AND THE INTERNET.

"READING BETWEEN THE
LINES, I COULD SEE A
REGULAR PATTERN, AN
ANNUAL CYCLE."



ONE
SOLID
MUNCH OF
CONS, GIFTS,
SCAMS,
SWINDLES, ET
CETERA...

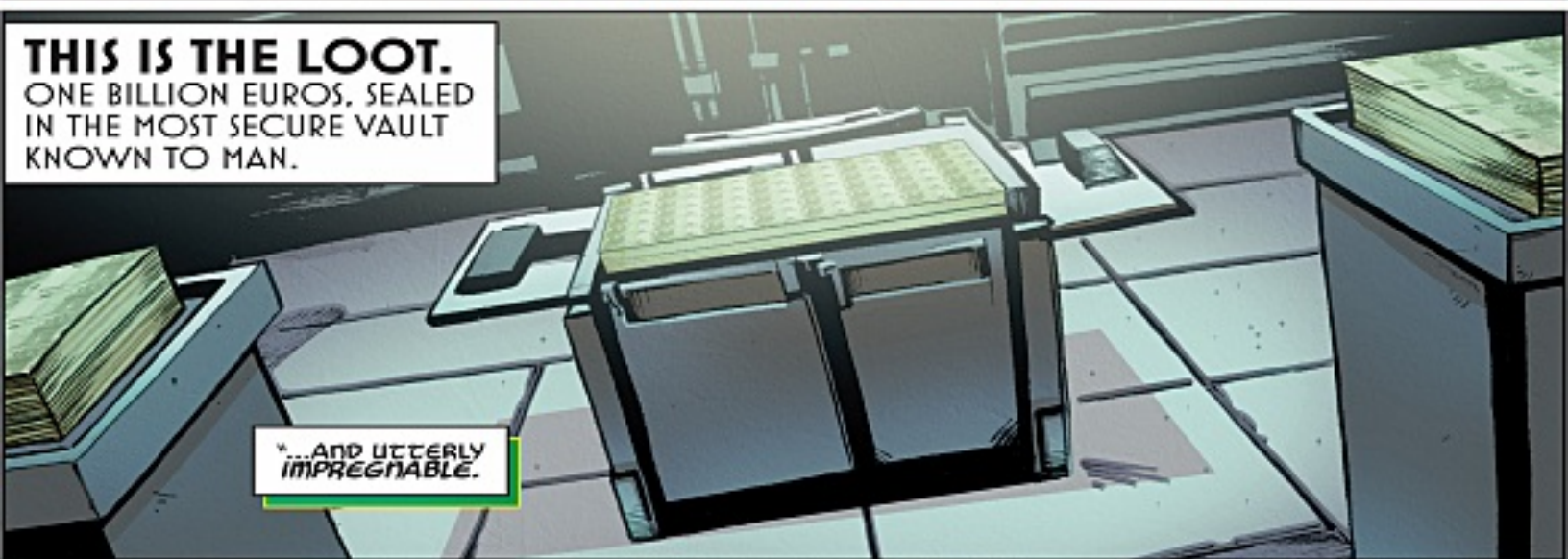
...ALL TO
BANKROLL
THE REAL
JOB.



THIS IS THE CASINO.
MONTE CARLO. FOR THE SUPER-RICH ONLY.

"A HEIST."

"ALWAYS SOMEWHERE
INFINITELY GLAMOROUS..."



THIS IS THE LOOT.
ONE BILLION EUROS, SEALED
IN THE MOST SECURE VAULT
KNOWN TO MAN.

"...AND UTTERLY
IMPREGNABLE."



THIS IS THE CAPER.
WATCH CAREFULLY.

"EVERY YEAR, SHE
HAND-PICKED A CREW
TO STEAL THE
UNSTEALABLE AND
THEN VANISH--"

"--AT LEAST UNTIL
SHE'D BLOWN HER
CONSIDERABLE SHARE
ON THE KIND OF
LUXURY EVEN THE
GODS DREAM OF."



SO.

WHO
WANTS TO
SEE SOME
MAGIC?



IS...IS THIS
A FLOOR
SHOW?

UH...
I THINK
SO...

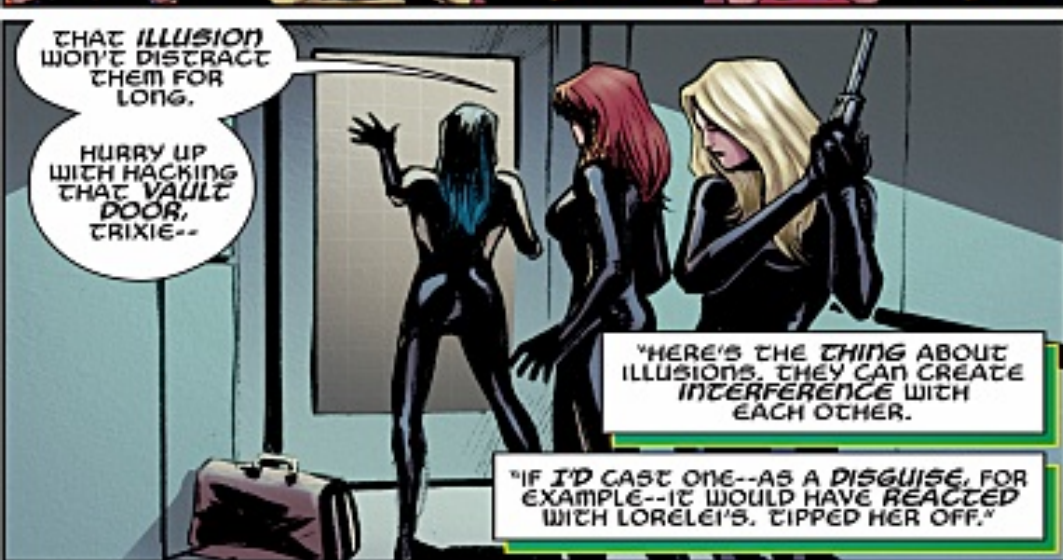
"BEFORE THE HEIST, SHE'D SEE ME
COMING. AFTERWARDS, SHE'D BE GONE."

"SO IF I WANTED
TO CATCH HER..."



ARE
THOSE REAL
GUNS?

"...IT HAD TO
BE DURING."





"...YOU SHOULD
JUST BE
YOURSELF."

WEAPONS
ON THE
GROUND, S'IL
VOUS PLATT.

WOW.
SO
THAT WAS
YOU?



WHAT?
NO!

WHY
WOULD I
USE A
GUN?



MAX
MARTEL--
INTERPOL
AGENT.

IT WAS A
WONDERFUL
DISTRACTION,
MESDEMOISELLES.



YOU'RE DEAD,
COP--

NO,
DAISY. NO
NEED FOR
THAT.

I THINK
WE CAN
HANDLE THIS IN
A MUCH MORE...
ENJOYABLE
FASHION.



DON'T
YOU?

MAX?



WHAT...
WHAT ARE
YOU...?



HOW CAN
I TELL HER--
SHE'S UNDER
ARREST?!

Complete in this issue:

*She
Heisted My
Heart!*



AN OLDIE
BUT A
GOODIE.

HE CAN
DREAM DREAMY
DREAMS OF
ROMANCE FOR
AN HOUR OR TWO--

--WHILE
WE GET ON
WITH THE HEIST.
HOW'S THAT
DOOR, CRIXIE?

TWENTY
SECONDS.

GOOD
GIRL.

DAISY--
YOU TAKE
THE AMULET
OF INVISIBILITY
AND GO BRING THE
CAR AROUND.





THERE,
VAULT DOOR
OPEN...

VERY
GOOD,
TRIXIE--



SLAMM

...AND
CLOSED.

YOU'RE SEALED
IN, LORELEI.
UNTIL I SAY
OTHERWISE.

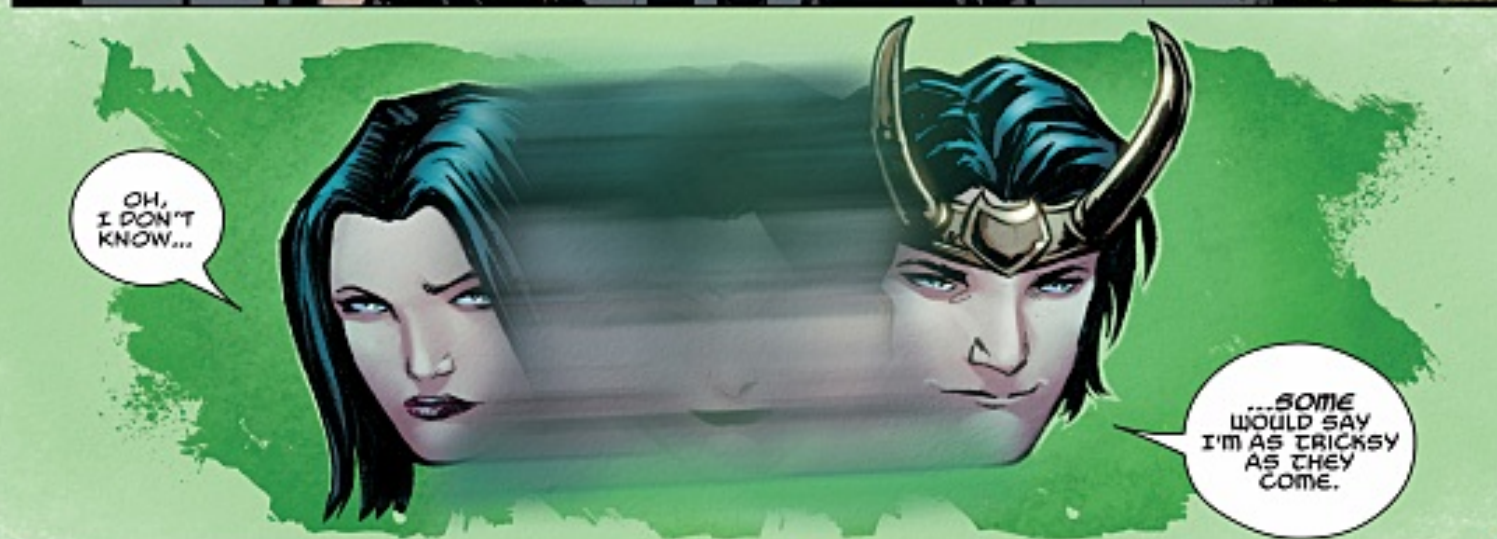


SO WE'VE
GOT PLENTY
OF TIME FOR
A LITTLE
CHAT...



...
"TRIXIE THE
HACKER."

YOU'RE
NOT WHO
YOU SAID YOU
WERE, ARE
YOU?



OH,
I DON'T
KNOW...

...SOME
WOULD SAY
I'M AS TRICKY
AS THEY
COME.



WAIT--
THAT WAS
YOU?

HELLO!
SHAPESHIFTER.

BUT--
YOU
SAID--

YES.

I'M
ALWAYS
MYSELF.



INTERESTING.
I SPENT *WEEKS*
WORKING WITH
"CRUXIE" ON
THIS.

THE LOKI I
KNEW WOULDN'T
HAVE WORN THAT
FORM FOR SO
LONG...

MAYBE I'M
NOT THE LOKI
YOU KNEW.

NOT
AS *SMART*,
CERTAINLY.



BUT
THEN, I
HEAR YOU'RE
THE ALL-
MOTHER'S
LAPDOG
NOW...



I ASSUME
SHE SENT
YOU AFTER
ME?

TELL
ME, DID YOU
HONESTLY
THINK I'D ENTER
A ROOM WITH
ONLY ONE
EXIT?



OR THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE
A SNEAKY *PORTAL* IN PLACE
TO MOVE MY *BILLION*
EUROS WITH?

LORELEI,
WAIT--I'M
NOT HERE
TO--



FOR
SHAME,
LOKI THE
LAPDOG.

MAYBE
NEXT TIME
WE MEET YOU'LL
HAVE GOTTEN YOUR
COLLAR OFF, HMM?



...
HEL.



OH,
WELL.

WHEN IN
MONTE
CARLO...





I...
MY NAME
IS VERITY
WILLIS.

NOBODY'S
EVER LIED
TO ME.

"BECAUSE NOBODY CAN,
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID,
I'VE ALWAYS SEEN THROUGH
ANY LIE I'M TOLD, NO MATTER
HOW SMALL OR WELL-
INTENTIONED..."

"I WAS THE ONLY
KID WHO NEVER
BELIEVED IN
SANTA CLAUS.

"I WAS ALWAYS
THE FIRST TO
KNOW.

"I CAN'T EVEN WATCH A MOVIE, ANY KIND
OF FICTION JUST...FRUSTRATES ME. PEOPLE
TALK ABOUT SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF--

"--WELL, THAT'S
NOT SOMETHING
I CAN DO.

"SO I SIT AROUND READING
ABOUT PURE MATHEMATICS,
PROGRAMMING, PHYSICS,
THINGS I KNOW ARE
ALWAYS TRUE..."

"...AND I TRY TO PRETEND
THAT'S ENOUGH...TO LIE
TO MYSELF..."





LOKI THE
LAPDOG...

...EXCEPT
LOKI ALWAYS
LIES, DOESN'T
HE?

ARE
YOU EVEN
WORKING FOR
THE ALL-
MOTHER?

OH,
ABSOLUTELY.

AS A
MATTER OF FACT,
I JUST FAILED A
VERY IMPORTANT
MISSION TO BRING
YOU BACK TO
ASGARDIA...

THERE'S
THE SCHEMING
TRICKSTER I
REMEMBER.

SO WHY
AM I RUNNING
FREE HERE AND
NOT LOCKED UP
THERE?

BECAUSE
I'M PUTTING
TOGETHER A
CREW FOR A CAPER
TO MAKE YOUR
CASINO HEIST
LOOK LIKE...

...WELL,
LIKE A
BAD SPEED
DATING
NIGHT.

LOKI OF THE SILVER
TONGUE DOESN'T LIKE
SPEED DATING? FROM
WHAT I SAW, YOU WERE
DOING QUITE
WELL...

YOU
DIDN'T SEE ME
CRASH-AND-BURN
ON NEW YEAR'S.
MY TONGUE IS
NOT THE DRAW
IT WAS,
ALAS.

YOU
SEEMED
RATHER TAKEN
WITH THAT
MORTAL
GIRL...

CURIOSITY,
NOTHING MORE.

I'VE ALREADY
PUT HER FROM
MY MIND...

HEH. LIAR.

NEXT:

IF YOU
MEET
THE GIANT
OTTER
ON THE
ROAD...
KILL HIM.

HERE'S LOKI-ING AT YOU

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.

Don't forget to mark "OKAY TO PRINT!"

Dear AOA Team,

Like a lot of Loki fans nowadays, my first introduction to him was through the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The way Tom Hiddleston portrayed him was so touching and nuanced, and fostered a real love of the character in me. Eventually, that inspired me to start reading the JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, which, of course, led to me reading even /more/ comics. (It's a slippery slope into monthly installments of superhero goodness.) So when I heard that the character who had been the main reason for my getting into comics was getting his own solo book, I was really excited, but a little nervous about how it would be handled. If the first issue is any indication though, I had nothing to be worried about! The writing was insightful and funny, you can tell that Al has got a good idea of who this Loki is and what he wants, and the art was jaw-droppingly gorgeous throughout. This was a great start to what I'm sure will be a great series, and I can't wait for more!

Alyssa Y.
England

Thanks, Alyssa! It's quite a scary thought, knowing that Loki's brought so many people into comics and now it's my turn to write him. There's an element of responsibility there – I don't want to be driving any readers back to those new-fangled movie pictures.

On another note – "Lovely" Lee Garbett's art IS gorgeous! That is a true thing.

Dear Mr. Al,

Love the new title and I can't wait to see what's up next, but one thing. Someone should inform Loki on the workings of Midgardian shampoo/conditioner. Remember, one does not need more than a quarter sized dot on the palm for long hair. I personally think Loki must have been bathing in it due to the unnecessary large amount of lather he created. He was completely covered in it!

But in all seriousness, I was quite sad to see Loki passed on to a new author after Kieron had written him for so long, but my fears are gone. I loved it! Keep being awesomesauce.

Becky Novak
Austin, TX

In Asgard they wash their hair in ale and the vomit of crows. 'Conditioner' is a luxury known only to decadent elves. Loki cannot be faulted for falling victim to the forbidden allure of the 'herbal essence'.

Dear Team Loki,

"Yo, readers. I heard you liked Loki so I put 'bud' Loki in your comic of agent Loki so you could double when you trouble." -- that ending (Am I at least allowed to ask which Loki's going on the speed date next issue? ...Yeah, didn't think so.)

This comic is amazing so far. Art is off the chain, in the sky and rocketing far out. Art Dude, you rock. I absolutely LOVE Loki's meaningful and highly giggle-worthy narration bubbles. Actually, I love everything he says—everything anyone says. The dialogue was perfect—except for that line about One Direction. Never gonna get the mental image of Loki not knowing what makes him beautiful out of my head. Thank you for that.

Mr. Ewing, you must be aware that a large amount of people reading this are teen/young adult girls converted to Lokism after the Ew-to-Ewahaha reconstruction of our favorite god as played by Tom Hiddleston. That being said, have you ever browsed Tumblr or fanfiction for an idea of the audience you're writing for? Would you ever read fanfiction about this comic for the giggles?

Thank you for the awesome reads! I can't wait for issue 2!

Melinda S.
Proudly reading in public in Georgia

P.S. I'm going to be the obvious person here but... "Still keeping it Low-key".

I'm on Tumblr at alewing.tumblr.com, and I do have a rifle through the Tumblr tags occasionally – but I don't read fanfic. I can't, really – I might come across an idea that's similar to what I'm doing, and then I'd have to abandon it or feel like a big plagiarist. (Between you and me, though, I'm my own target audience – everything in the book is there 'cos it's what I want in a Loki book.)

P.S. A fine pun. Into the hat it goes.

Dear Team Loki,

What a great first issue! I loved Loki's interactions with the Avengers, and his dialogue was fun and witty – just what I've come to expect from the character (and no offense, but you've got some big shoes to fill after Gillen). Not to mention that last page – what a cliffhanger, way to reel me right in! I look forward to more of Mr. Garbett's art as well. His expressions really sell Loki's charm (and, um, page two was nice).

I have a few ideas regarding the letter column, only TWO of which are horribly punny:

Days of Our 'Lie'-ves
Lies and Grandeur
Mischievous Missives

Remember, you brought those on yourselves.

Irregretably,
Halina

Thanks, Halina! Don't I know it about the shoes. Kieron is a very tough act to follow.

That first title especially is the kind of thing we want to see – I'm going to keep the letter column contest open for another month or two, though, and see if we can get some even more groanworthy puns in.

With regard to Loki #1:

Kudos to a hero who provides his own fanservice! My husband suggests that the collective name for a group of Lokis should be a "mischief." Since you have shown two Lokis in the first issue, may I suggest that the letter column be called "A Little Mischief"?

All the best,
Mary L. Johnson, Ph.D.
(and her Mischief of Lokis)

We're all about the fanservice here at Loki Towers. I'm also in agreement on the collective name – who knows, maybe we'll get to see the

whole mischief coming together soon. As for the letter column title – not enough pun. I want some real stinkers, people!

After nearly a quarter century away from comics, I finally have a favorite comic again. Thank you, thank you, o minions of mischief, for a title that from the first has been such an unabashed pleasure to read. I may be (nominally) an adult, but I have very little taste for the grittier sorts of titles out there... but LOKI has humor, that wonderful fracturing of the fourth wall I've always loved, wonderful art...

Oh, and a Tom Hiddleston look-alike singing Broadway show tunes in the shower. And using WICKED as the source material was a stroke of genius. Pure Genius.

Please, please keep it up – this comic book mama can't wait for issue #2!

Chris :)

Thank you! Grit can be great in moderation, but I don't think it's necessarily 'adult' – when I was a kid, I loved it. And there's tragedy a-plenty coming in Loki in the months to come, so savor the fun times while ye may.

That's enough for now. Until next month, mischief-makers – keep it Loki! (Thanks, Melinda.)

-Al Ewing



ISSUE #3



THOR #20



